United Nations A/C.5/59/16

General Assembly

Distr.: General
10 November 2004

Original: English

Fifty-ninth session
Fifth Committee
Agenda items 98 and 108

Advancement of women

Programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

Future operation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.26

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

Summary

Under the terms of draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.26, the General Assembly would decide to provide its full support to the current efforts to revitalize the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) and to ensure that the Institute will be able to continue functioning for a period of at least one year.

The period of one year indicated in paragraph 7 of the draft resolution would be from 1 January to 31 December 2005. The financial requirements of the Institute for that period are estimated at $1,183,700. It is anticipated that the balance in the INSTRAW Trust Fund as at 31 December 2004 would amount to $91,300, which would enable the Institute to continue its operations only through January 2005. It is not possible at this stage to determine whether the Institute would have adequate resources to operate to 31 December 2005 without complementary regular budget funds. Contingent upon the availability or otherwise of additional voluntary contributions, an additional amount of $1,092,400 may be required from the regular budget of the United Nations to maintain the Institute in 2005.

04-60138 (E) 161104

1. At its 37th meeting, on 4 November 2004, the Third Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.26 by a recorded vote of 128 to 10, with 29 abstentions. A statement of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution was before the Committee in document A/C.3/59/L.36, the content of which is reproduced below for consideration by the Fifth Committee.

I. Requests contained in the draft resolution

2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 7 of draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.26, the General Assembly would decide to provide its full support to the current efforts to revitalize the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) and, in this regard, to ensure that the Institute will be able to continue functioning for a period of at least one year.

II. Background

3. In paragraph 5 of its resolution 58/244 of 23 December 2003 on the future operation of INSTRAW, the General Assembly decided, inter alia, to continue to provide its full support to the current efforts to revitalize the Institute and, in this regard, to provide funds complementary to the existing ones, if needed, to ensure that the Institute would have adequate resources to function for a period of one year.

4. Before the adoption of that resolution, the Fifth Committee, by its decision contained in document A/58/649, decided to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt the resolution, an amount of $234,700 would be set aside in the contingency fund for the biennium 2004-2005 to provide INSTRAW with complementary funds, if needed. The Committee requested the Secretary-General to indicate to the General Assembly at the second resumption of its fifty-eighth session whether these resources would be required.

5. As it was determined, in consultation with the Director of the Institute at the time of the second resumption of the fifty-eighth session, that there was no immediate need for additional resources to be provided by the General Assembly to INSTRAW, the report on the financial situation of the Institute was submitted to the General Assembly at its current session (A/59/433).

III. Current financial situation

6. In 2004, the financial situation of the Institute remained precarious. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General (A/59/433), only $109,100, including $101,706 in voluntary contributions and $7,394 in miscellaneous income, had been received in the INSTRAW Trust Fund as at 30 September 2004. It was estimated in that report that the balance of the Trust Fund as at 31 December 2004 would be approximately $23,717.

7. In October 2004, additional contributions of $67,613 were received in the Trust Fund. Taking into account these contributions, the balance of the Trust Fund as at 31 December 2004 is currently projected at approximately $91,300. As the United Nations pledging conference for development activities is scheduled for the

beginning of November 2004, it is not possible to provide a definitive estimate of 2005 income at this time.

IV. Activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented

8. With due regard to the institutional and financial limitations placed upon the Institute, the following objectives and related activities have been formulated for 2005:

Strategic objectives	*Activities/outputs*
Objective 1: To promote the development and implementation of local, regional and global policies that are gender-responsive and based on results of research, the application of lessons learned and feedback and the replication of best practices.	(a) Promote research activities on gender issues in critical areas such as: (i) migration-related issues (remittances, trafficking); (ii) information and communication technologies and women's empowerment; (iii) security and gender; (iv) women's political participation; and (v) reproductive rights, as well as in global mandates such as the 10-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals; (b) Conduct research with partners in identified areas such as migration/trafficking, remittances, reproductive rights, women's political participation, etc.; (c) Support capacity-building of universities to include gender in research activities.
Objective 2: To strengthen national capacities to effectively manage gender-related knowledge to support Governments and civil society in their efforts to mainstream gender into policies and programmes.	(a) Redesign the INSTRAW web site in a user-friendly manner within United Nations standards and providing up-to-date information on priority areas for gender mainstreaming, including the 10-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals; (b) Assemble progress report on the 12 critical areas of the Beijing Platform for Action and post it on the web site; (c) Provide to stakeholders materials and resources for gender mainstreaming developed by INSTRAW and/or with other partners, within quality standards determined by the Institute;

Strategic objectives	*Activities/outputs*
	(d) Disseminate and package information for different users (journalists, non-governmental organizations and national machineries) through the INSTRAW web site.
Objective 3: To strengthen national capacity to design and deliver training (including e-training) on gender mainstreaming.	(a) Develop and disseminate training programmes, materials and tools (including trainer's rosters) for gender mainstreaming;
	(b) Identify and promote best practices and experiences on mainstreaming gender in curricular and other training activities;
	(c) Develop projects to identify gaps and opportunities to deliver training and e-training on gender mainstreaming.
Objective 4: To shape a sustainable institution that is sound and innovative and applies good governance.	(a) Implement the INSTRAW programme of work with the participation of stakeholders (United Nations organizations, research and academic institutions and non-governmental organizations) in order to optimize the use of resources for gender mainstreaming;
	(b) Explore and develop new initiatives for resource mobilization and innovative sources to secure a sustainable core financial and human resource base, as well as for specific projects;
	(c) Develop results-based management processes that optimize the use of resources with transparency and accountability;
	(d) Strengthen an effective working relationship with the Executive Board crafted through systematic and interactive exchange and participation;
	(e) Strengthen network and partnership of INSTRAW.

V. Administrative and financial arrangements and indication of additional requirements

9. It is assumed on the basis of the financial period of the regular budget that the period of one year indicated in paragraph 7 of draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.26 would be from 1 January to 31 December 2005. It is also understood that the request to ensure that the Institute would be able to continue functioning for a period of one year implies the continuation of the core activities of the Institute. Accordingly, resources relating to the salaries of the five Professional and five General Service staff, as well as related substantive and administrative non-post costs, would be required.

10. The related requirements for 2005 are estimated at $1,183,700. This includes (a) $620,500 for 10 posts (1 D-2, 1 P-3, 3 P-2/1 and 5 General Service); (b) resource requirements for substantive activities, including general temporary assistance, consultancy and travel, estimated at $423,000; and (c) administrative resource requirements of $140,200, including general operating expenses, supplies and materials, equipment, etc.

11. It is anticipated that the estimated INSTRAW Trust Fund balance of $91,300 as at 31 December 2004, indicated in paragraph 7 above, would enable the Institute to continue its operations only until January 2005. Accordingly, an additional amount of $1,092,400 would be required to maintain the Institute to the end of 2005.

12. It is not possible at this stage to determine whether the Institute would have adequate resources from voluntary contributions to function beyond 31 January 2005. In the event that insufficient voluntary contributions are received prior to that date, an amount of up to $1,092,400, as referred to above, would have to be funded from the regular budget.

13. The programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 does not provide for any resources to be made available for the support of INSTRAW operations in 2005. Any amount that the General Assembly may decide to allocate to enable the Institute to continue its operations beyond January 2005 would therefore need to be provided through an additional appropriation in the context of the contingency fund established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986.

VI. Summary

14. **Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.26, the decision to provide support to the Institute would give rise to potential additional requirements of up to $1,092,400 for the biennium 2004-2005 over and above the regular budget resources proposed under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, contingent upon the availability or otherwise of additional voluntary contributions to the INSTRAW Trust Fund. The provision would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would need to be considered in the context of the review by the Fifth Committee of the consolidated statement of potential charges to the contingency fund before any increase in appropriations for the biennium 2004-2005 was approved.**